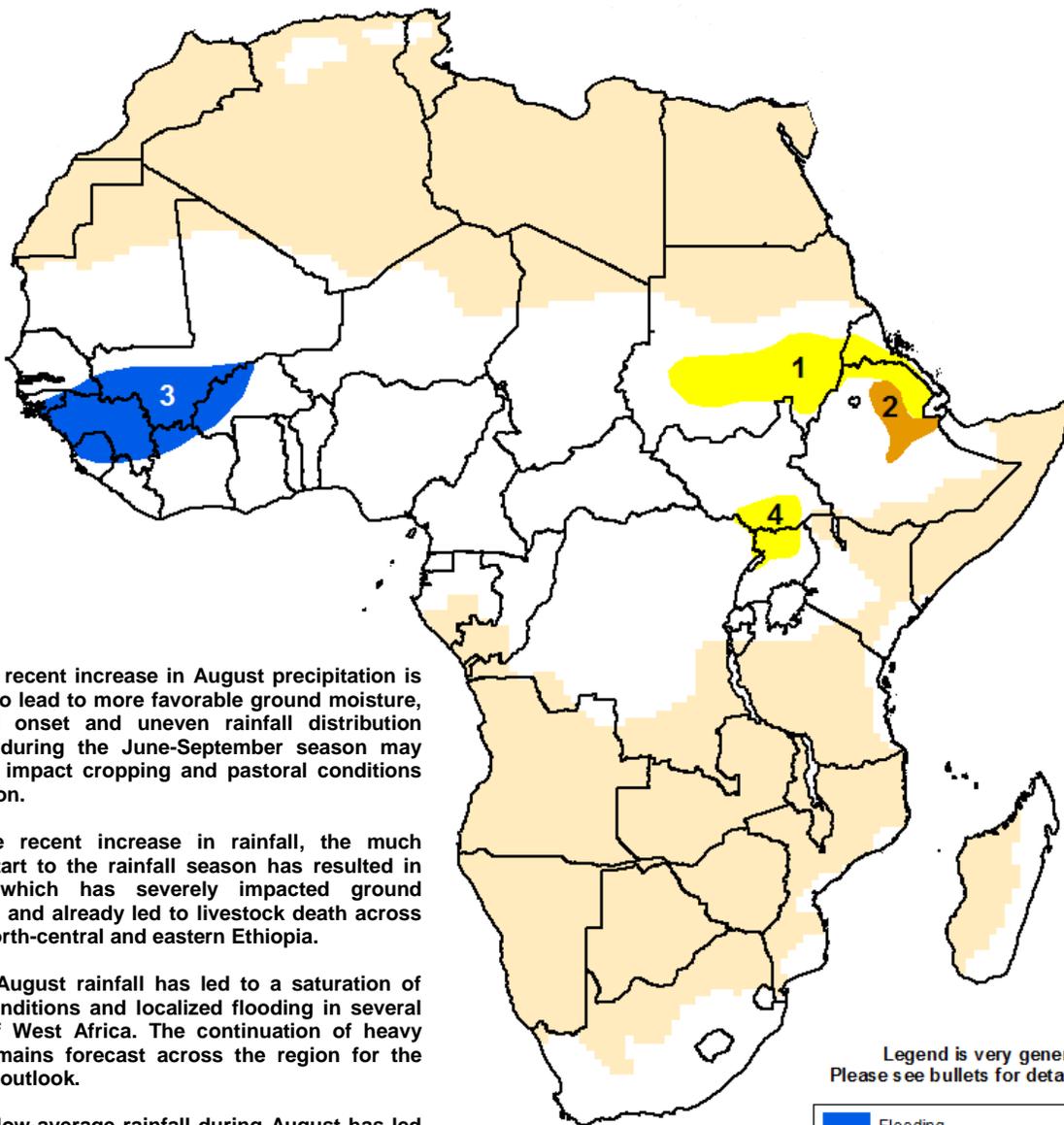




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 10 – September 16, 2015

- Although decreased rains are expected in West Africa, high ground moisture sustains the risk for floods.
- Poorly distributed rains strengthen seasonal deficits over parts of central Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.



1) While a recent increase in August precipitation is expected to lead to more favorable ground moisture, a delayed onset and uneven rainfall distribution observed during the June-September season may negatively impact cropping and pastoral conditions in the region.

2) Despite recent increase in rainfall, the much delayed start to the rainfall season has resulted in drought, which has severely impacted ground conditions and already led to livestock death across parts of north-central and eastern Ethiopia.

3) Heavy August rainfall has led to a saturation of ground conditions and localized flooding in several regions of West Africa. The continuation of heavy rainfall remains forecast across the region for the upcoming outlook.

4) Well below-average rainfall during August has led to a strengthening of moisture deficits throughout several provinces in southern South Sudan and northern Uganda. Below-average rainfall is expected in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat
	Seasonally Dry

Enhanced August rainfall continues into early September.

During the last seven days, well-distributed moderate to locally heavy rainfall was received across much of western Africa. According to satellite data, the highest weekly precipitation accumulations (>125mm) were registered across southern Mali and western Burkina Faso, and northern Nigeria. The lowest rainfall totals were mainly received across the Gulf of Guinea countries with low rainfall accumulations observed throughout southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. Since late August, the northern extent of seasonal rains were observed as far north as southern Mauritania, and central portions of Mali and Niger, which has been associated with an active, and anomalously positioned ITCZ/ITF during the 3rd dekad of August (Figure 1). Although heavy rains have triggered floods throughout some local areas in West Africa during August, the northern extent of moderate seasonal precipitation is expected to provide favorable ground moisture and benefit pastoral areas throughout several northern Sahel and sub-Saharan zones.

Since June, several regions located in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Guinea have experienced at least 4-5 consecutive weeks of above-average (>120 percent of normal) rainfall according the satellite data (Figure 2). Some local areas in western Mali and northern Burkina Faso have seen as much as 6-8 consecutive weeks of enhanced seasonal rains. With little opportunity for rainfall relief, these saturated areas are expected to be the most at risk for flooding during early September. The continuation of above-average rains could trigger additional floods and also damage crops over some overly saturated areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, rainfall forecasts indicate a slightly weaker rainfall distribution as the ITF and seasonal rains begin their southward migration. The heaviest rainfall accumulations are expected throughout Guinea, southern Mali, Sierra Leone and western Burkina Faso. This forecast has sustained the risk for flooding over many already saturated grounds in the region.

Little relief expected for several anomalously dry areas in central Ethiopia.

During the past week, a westward shift in the seasonal rainfall distribution was observed leading towards lesser rainfall throughout some central and eastern portions of Ethiopia during early September. The highest rainfall accumulations were received in northwestern Ethiopia, with increased amounts registered in eastern and southern Sudan. Increased precipitation was also received in South Sudan and Uganda which is expected to bring some relief to anomalous dryness that has been developing in the regions since August. Analysis of satellite estimated rainfall percentiles since early June shows the greatest moisture deficits in the Greater Horn are located in eastern Amhara, Afar, northern Oromia regions of Ethiopia and extending locally into the northern Somalia region (Figure 3). The abnormal dryness in north-central Ethiopia has been a part of a much longer dryness trend, as this region of Ethiopia also experienced a very poor, and unfavorably distributed "Belg" rains season during the Mar-May period. Two consecutively failed rains seasons in central Ethiopia may exacerbate livestock and cropping conditions in the region.

Inter-Tropical Front (ITF) and satellite-Estimated Rainfall (mm) Valid: 3rd Dekad of August, 2015

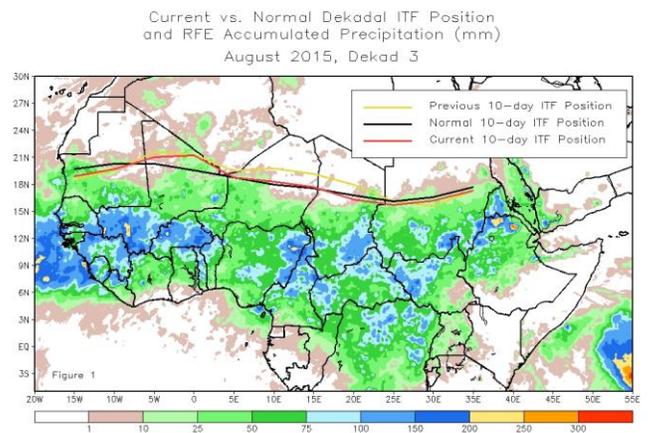


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Maximum Consecutive Weeks of Above-Average Rainfall Since: June 14, 2015

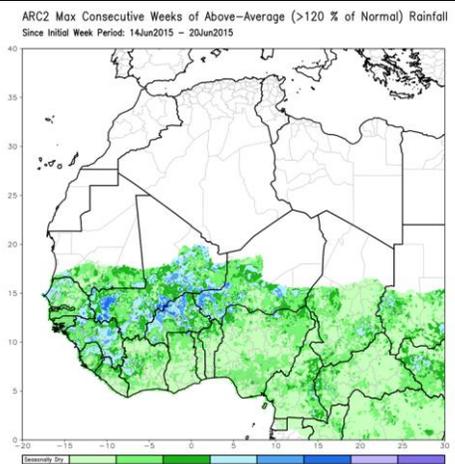


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: June 9 - September 6, 2015

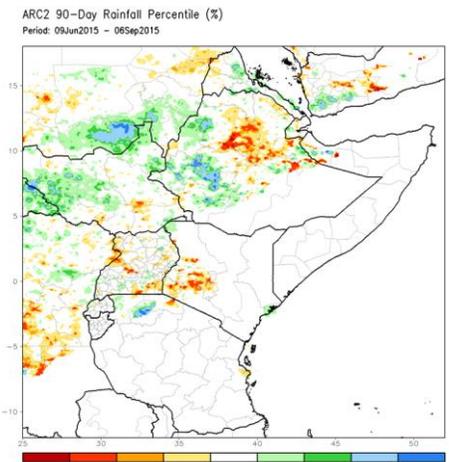


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.